

Minutes Enhanced Services Commission Annual Meeting - October 14, 2009

Minutes of the Enhanced Services Commission held on October 14, 8:00 AM, at the Rio Salado Operations Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Chris Anaradian
Kathy Berzins
Neil Calfee
Gary Cheek
Gordon Cresswell
Jerry Hart
Nancy Hormann
Randy Levin
Chris Salomone

City Staff Present:

Roger Hallsted
Diane Johnson
Dee Dee Kimbrell
Jyme Sue McLaren
Nancy Ryan
Robert Yabes

Members Absent:

Greg Loper
Mark Richwine

Meeting convened at 8:03AM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of meeting minutes: July 8, 2009

Randy Levin asked if the commission members had an opportunity to review the minutes from July 8, 2009.

MOTION: Jerry Hart moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Gary Cheek

DECISION: Minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 2 – Election of ESC Officers

Nancy Ryan notified Randy that the current ESC officers have not reached term limits and all are eligible to serve another year term. Randy asked the current ESC officers if they were willing to serve another term. All officers agreed to continue in the same position, they are Randy Levin as Chair, Neil Calfee as President, Gary Cheek as Vice-President, Jerry Hart as Treasurer, and Nancy Ryan as secretary.

MOTION: Gordon Cresswell moved to reappoint the current ESC officers to serve in 2010.

SECOND: Kathy Berzins

DECISION: ESC members voted unanimously to approve reappointments.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Transportation Easement

Robert Yabes, COT Principal Planner gave a short summary on the Rio Salado Parkway easement. He stated in 1994 a transportation study/traffic analysis was done for the Rio Salado Parkway consistent with expected development within the master plan. It was revised in 1997. The transportation study proposed staff to look for ways to capture 30% of traffic trips via transit on Rio Salado Parkway.

In March 2003 City Council adopted the City of Tempe Comprehensive Transportation Plan that proposed a street car on the Rio Salado Parkway. After adopting the proposal the city identified the need for a 14 ft. right-of-way on both sides of the Rio Salado Parkway for some kind of high capacity transit. It has not been determined what kind of transit mode it will be. The street car's original route was north on Mill Avenue, east on Rio Salado Parkway and north on Scottsdale Road up to SkySong.

General discussion regarding the **Transportation Easement**, including:

- Nancy Ryan stated in an analysis report Rio Salado Parkway was predicted to have an "F" level of traffic on existing configuration when built out.
- Randy asked if the easement has been taken away in front of the South Bank project. Jyme Sue McLaren reported it has not been eliminated. She explained the City exercised a development agreement to sell the land and at the time had not identified the 14 ft right-of-way. When development came back through, the city negotiated with the development to use the area for utilities in addition for preservation for the 14 ft transportation corridor.
- Nancy reported if transit funding is not available for this system the city could also use the right-of-way for vehicle lanes.
- Randy would like to see the street car go from Mill Ave. to Tempe Marketplace instead of up Scottsdale Road. Robert stated in 2003 there were no plans for the Tempe Marketplace development. Jyme Sue stated the city is reserving 14 ft right-of-way from Mill Ave. to McClintock Rd. because it is identified as a high capacity corridor.
- Jyme Sue reported there is a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor identified as part of Prop 400 passed in 2004. It identified a Rural Road BRT corridor from north Scottsdale to Chandler. The study from University/Rural rail station north is just kicking off and it will look at evaluating options for this high capacity corridor and how it connects in and out of downtown Tempe.

Agenda Item 5 – South Corridor Transit Study Update

Jyme Sue McLaren gave an update on the south corridor transit study. For the last two years the study has looked at alignment/route, transit options, and station locations. Staff is in the process of designing a small area model more sensitive to local trip generations to better identify probable characteristic in a smaller area. Ridership and recommendations will be coming out in January.

In this study Rural Road was eliminated as a light rail corridor primarily because the section of U.S. 60 north is the highest congested area and the road is built-out. A light rail corridor would create significant resident & business impacts and the at grade railroad crossing would put the light rail over or under the railroad. Mill Ave. was eliminated as a BRT and there was elimination of all technologies on McClintock because it did not connect to the downtown area.

The findings point to a need for a Mill Avenue modern streetcar and a Rural Road BRT corridor. Jyme Sue stated the modern street car servicing downtown Tempe and ASU had the highest boardings per mile and offers a good connection to the Rural Road corridor at Southern and Rural. The next step of the study is further analysis of modeling, development and cost-benefit analysis. The study results will be presented to the Mayor and Council next spring.

General discussion regarding the **South Corridor Transit Study**, including:

- Chris Salomone asked when the study goes into preliminary engineering would they look at an Ash Avenue orientation instead of Mill Avenue. Jyme Sue stated yes they could do refining alignment in smaller areas.

Agenda Item 6 – City Re-Org Update

Chris Salomone gave a summary on the Community Development re-org. The City's re-org was an attempt by the City to obtain efficiencies in reducing budget without reducing staff. For Community Development changes included the Transportation Planning division joining the department and Code Enforcement moving to Development Services. The Town Lake duties that pertain to issuing boat permits & parks maintenance was moved to Parks & Recreation. Community Development will do current and future planning, and economic development for a city that is built out.

Chris Anaradian, Development Services Manager, said the council is still looking at additional budget cuts because the sales tax is under performing expectations. Each department is looking for additional reductions. Development Services is looking at 8% to 20% in additional reduction.

Agenda Item 7 – CFD Budget

Roger Hallsted, Rio Salado Financial Analyst reported the Community Facility District (CFD) expenses for 2008-2009 fiscal year was \$3.3 million. The current year estimated budget is \$3.6 million. The budget increases are most commonly due to increased cost in lake security and maintenance cost of new park areas. By the end of this year Playa del Norte Park and Rio East Linear Park will be added to the CFD which will increase operation, maintenance, and water costs. In the first three months of this fiscal year the CFD expenses are at 18.7%.

General discussion regarding the **CFD Budget**, including:

- Randy and Neil Calfee would like to see a 3% difference at year end between estimated budget and actual expenses. Nancy and Roger will look closer at developing the budget to more closely match actual expenses.
- Chris Anaradian suggested looking closer at lake security and the costs associated with it.

Agenda Item 8 – Boat Concession

Nancy Ryan reported Rio Lago Cruise boat rental contract expired on September 14. Rio Lago has auctioned off their inventory and the city bought their docks at Town Lake. Rio Lago still

runs tour boats on the lake. Staff has been directed to develop an RFP for replacement of the boat concessionaire and other concession options. Nancy Hormann volunteered to assist with RFP concepts for a new boating concession.

Agenda Item 9 – Private Project Update

- Neil reported the ASU 9 1/2 acres is under due diligence with Brad Gorman.
- Namwest is in bankruptcy and is in the process of reorganizing with new ownership.
- Papago Stables owners met with Chris Salomone and Nancy to discuss the possible relocation of the trail ride business.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Project Update

- Tempe Town Lake turns 10 years old. Celebration activities include November 7th as a free boating day, November 24th trout stocking, and on December 12th a birthday party before the boat parade.
- Pedestrian Bridge is out for rebidding due to reduction in steel costs. Additional funds to fill the funding gap have been identified.
- A multi-use path from Tempe Marketplace to Mesa Riverview on the south bank of Salt River is in design.
- Placement of the downstream rubber dams will start in January/February next year. PCL was selected as the contractor to do the construction.
- Fantasy of Lights has been changed from November 28 to Friday, November 27. APS has donated a 65' Christmas tree for Centerpoint.

The committee's next meeting will be January 13, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08AM.

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Project Manager